

Going Up

Our Membership increases not by leaps and bounds but by two's and three's—this morning one from Peterborough, one from Chichester; yesterday one from Belfast; tomorrow from who knows where but from somewhere for certain. Mostly new members hear about us from friends—sometimes a regular s-f reader writes almost apologetically—"I've only just heard that there is a Science Fiction Book Club..." So don't take it for granted that your sf minded friends necessarily know about us already—tell them.

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In the next issue of SF News we shall give the programme from March to September 1958.

DETAIL

"The Science Fiction Book Club" is a registered business name (proprietors: Sidgwick and Jackson, Ltd.).

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INTERNATIONAL FANTASY AWARDS

The International Fantasy Award trophy for 1956/57 was presented to Professor J. R. R. Tolkien at a special meeting of the Science Fiction Luncheon Club in London on September 10th. The presentation was made by Arthur C. Clarke to Professor Tolkien for his trilogy "The Lord of the Rings," published by Allen and Unwin. The titles of the three volumes are: Part one "The Fellowship of the Ring"; Part two "The Two Towers"; Part three "The Return of the King."

It is not easy to describe Professor Tolkien's work. It may not appeal to those who like labels firmly attached to everything. Richard Hughes says it is "something which has scarcely been attempted on this scale since Spenser's *Faerie Queene*, so one can't praise it by comparisons—there is nothing to compare it with." Naomi Mitchison says "one takes it completely seriously; as seriously as Mallory." C. S. Lewis too has added his penetrating appreciation: "No imaginary world has been projected which is at once so multifarious and so true to its own inner laws; so relevant to the actual human situation yet so free from allegory. And what fine shading there is in the almost endless diversity of scenes and characters—comic, homely, epic, monstrous, or diabolic."